

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 HEW-08 CU-04 SPM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /104 W
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R 281520 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT BE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICS - PARLIAMENTARY WIND UP

REF: BRUSSELS 3481

1. HAVING PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL,
SCHOOL, AND CONTRACEPTION ISSUES, AND HAVING RECEIVED PRIME
MINISTER' S ASSURANCE THAT THERAPEUTIC ABORTION BILL WOULD BE
OFFERED IN FALL, GOVERNMENT PARTIES AGREED FURTHER THIS WEEK TO
PUSH THROUGH LEGISLATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. SCHEDULING
PROBLEM NOTED IN REF B IS TO BE SOLVED WITH SIMULTANEOUS
MEETINGS OF SENATE AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND SERIES OF
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" PARALLEL" VOTES SCHEDULED IN SUCH MANNER THAT REJECTION OF ONE WILL PERMIT OFFENDED PARTY TO BLOCK ACTION ON OTHERS. IN CONVEYING ABOVE TO AMBASSADOR DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 27, FRANCOPHONE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY PRESIDENT NOTHOMB ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT, AFTER PARLIAMENTARY RECESS, GOVERNMENT PARTIES WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OVER REGIONALIZATION AND SURVIVE UNTIL REGULAR ELECTIONS IN 1975. NOTHOMB' S VIEW IS SHARED IN PART BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER EYSKENS WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR LATER THAT DAY THAT HE EXPECTED GOVERNMENT TO LIMP ALONG UNTIL 1975 BUT WITH MINIMUM OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

2. LEADER OF LIBERALS IN CHAMBER, DEPUTY DE CROO HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF SOMEWHAT LESS CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT' S FUTURE. DECROO BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT SCHANDALS INVOLVING SOCIALISTS AND POLLS SHOWING CONTINUED EROSION OF FLEMISH CATHOLIC AND SOCIALIST SUPPORT (IN FAVOR, RESPECTIVELY, OF MILITANT FLEMISH VOLKSUNI AND FLEMISH LIBERAL PARTIES) MILITATE FOR CONTINUATION OF GOVERNMENT AT LEAST UNTIL SPRING 1974. OTHER SOURCES HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS. DECROO ALSO SAID THAT PARLIAMENT HOPED TO WIND UP WITH MARATHON MEETING JUNE 28 OR, IF THAT FAILS, DURING FIRST WEEK OF JULY. SOME PROBLEMS REMAIN ON RETAIL CLOSURE HOURS BILL, WHICH MANY LIBERALS HAVE OPPOSED, AND WITH POSSIBLE LAST- MINUTE EFFORT OF CATHOLICS TO OBTAIN LEGAL ASSURANCES THAT SCHOOL BILL DOES NOT PRECLUDE MAINTENANCE OF ETHICAL AND MORAL STANDARDS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. VICE PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TOLD AMBASSADOR THERE WOULD BE HEAVY GOING ON THE BUDGET AND THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONMIGHT HAVE TO BE EXTENDED TO MID- JULY. STRAUSZ- HUPE

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